

Dhaka Bank holds managers' conference

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dhaka Bank PLC recently organised the "Managers Conference-2025" under the slogan "One Team, One Vision - Achieving Growth Through Synergy" in Cox's Bazar.

Abdul Hai Sarker, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the conference as the chief guest, according to a press release.

During his address, Sarker emphasised the importance of unity among all members of Dhaka Bank, encouraging collaboration and mutual understanding with the conviction that, together, even seemingly unattainable goals can be realised.

Sheikh Mohammad Maroof, managing director and CEO of the bank, presided over the event.

The conference reviewed the overall performance and business growth achieved in the previous year and set future business objectives. It also outlined strategic initiatives to attain this year's targets.

Additionally, the management assessed the overall performance of the first quarter of 2025.

The event featured interactive sessions and strategic discussions centred on the bank's future growth, with a strong focus on enhancing collaboration to sustain Dhaka Bank's reputation as one of the most compassionate financial institutions in Bangladesh.



PHOTO: DHAKA BANK

Abdul Hai Sarker, chairman of Dhaka Bank PLC, and Sheikh Mohammad Maroof, managing director and CEO, pose for group photographs with participants of the "Managers Conference-2025" in Cox's Bazar recently.



Sheikh Mohammad Abdur Rahman, joint secretary and deputy project director of the Export Competitiveness for Jobs (EC4J) project, attends a press conference at Rupayan Millennium Square on Pragati Sarani in the capital yesterday.

Prime Bank celebrates 30 years of progress, innovation and inclusive growth

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Prime Bank PLC yesterday commemorated 30 years of service, celebrating a journey defined by trust, innovation, and shared progress.

The bank reaffirmed its commitment to delivering enhanced service to its customers while contributing to a more inclusive and resilient economy in the years ahead, according to a press release.

Over the decades, Prime Bank has evolved into a forward-thinking financial institution with a focus on sustainability, accessibility, and customer-centric innovation.

From advancing digital banking solutions to pioneering green financing and inclusive services, the bank continues to transform the way it supports individuals, enterprises, and the broader economy.

Reflecting on the milestone, Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of the bank, stated: "At Prime Bank, our journey has always been about progress with purpose."

"We're celebrating our achievements, and we are already ready to embrace the future with renewed energy—to serve better, grow stronger, and create lasting impact,"

he added. Founded in 1995, Prime Bank moves forward with renewed confidence towards a brighter tomorrow.

It currently serves 1.1 million customers across all market segments in Bangladesh, offering a comprehensive range of financial services including consumer, corporate, SME, and Islamic banking.

The bank maintains a strong nationwide presence with more than 147 branches, 158 ATMs, and 152 agent banking outlets, ensuring access to financial services in both urban and rural areas.

Prime Bank is also recognised for its attractive savings schemes, credit card offerings, and innovative digital banking solutions.



Senior officials and executives of Prime Bank PLC marked 30 years of service yesterday, celebrating a legacy of trust, innovation, and inclusive progress.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

GPH Ispat, PWD organise seminar on sustainable use of construction materials

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GPH Ispat Limited, a leading rebar manufacturer in Bangladesh, and the Public Works Department (PWD) jointly organised a seminar titled "Knowledge Sharing Seminar" at the latter's office in Dhaka recently.

Mohammad Shamim Akhtar, chief engineer of the PWD, attended the seminar as the chief guest, said a press release. Akhtar stated, "GPH Ispat has demonstrated its sense of responsibility by investing in research in the construction sector. Their joint initiatives with universities have set an example. It is essential to continue such research activities."

"More companies like GPH should step forward to enhance efficiency in the use of construction materials in future building projects," he added.

The seminar highlighted the results of collaborative research involving the application of high-strength rebar B600D-R and optimum concrete in RCC building design. The discussion focused on how high-strength rebar B600D-R contributes to cost-effective and efficient RCC construction. Additionally, the seminar emphasised the eco-friendly nature and sustainability potential of "Rebar Grade B600D-R".

Two research papers were presented during the seminar. Md Kamruzzaman, sub-divisional

engineer of the PWD, demonstrated how the use of high-strength rebars can be highly effective in RCC building design.

"High strength rebars reduce rebar congestion and significantly lower construction costs," he said, adding that the use of such rebars contributes to reduced carbon emissions and greenhouse gases, supporting sustainable development.

The second paper was presented by Md Zahid Hasnain, who explained the strength compatibility of the desired concrete with high-strength rebars, and discussed various aspects of using these rebars in construction.



Mohammad Shamim Akhtar, chief engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD), attends a seminar on the sustainable use of construction materials, organised by GPH Ispat and the PWD, at the latter's office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: GPH ISPAT

Registration begins for education aid through Nagad

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The disbursement process for scholarships and stipends under the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust resumed on April 15, aiming to support underprivileged and meritorious students from grade six up to bachelor's (pass) and equivalent levels.

Following registration, relevant government authorities will conduct a multi-phase verification process.

Students selected for financial support will receive their funds through Nagad, the mobile financial service operated by the Bangladesh Postal Department, according to a press release.



Using the designated software, students in grades six and nine may complete their registration by 30 April, while students at the bachelor's level have until 15 May to register via the official portal: <https://estipend.pmeat.gov.bd/#/>.

To qualify, each student must link an active Nagad account during the registration process. Upon successful verification, the approved scholarship or stipend amount will be deposited directly into their Nagad wallet.

Currently, the disbursed amounts stand at Tk 5,000 for secondary-level students, Tk 8,000 for higher secondary, and Tk 10,000 for those at bachelor's or equivalent levels.

A tripartite agreement was signed in 2024 between the Bangladesh Post Office, the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust, and Nagad, under which Nagad was appointed the sole mobile financial service provider for this initiative.

Nagad was selected for its extensive nationwide reach, low transaction costs, and seamless, user-friendly service.

Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project
Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)
Information and Communication Technology Division
Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology
Youth Tower (Level 5), 822/2, Rokeya Sarani, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh
www.bcc.gov.bd

Date: 17 April 2025

Request for Proposal
Information Systems
(Design, Supply and Installation)
(Without Prequalification)

Purchaser: Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)
Project: Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project
Contract title: Supply, Installation and Commissioning for Expansion of Existing Private Cloud Platform (DC & DR) in National Data Center at BCC
Country: Bangladesh
Credit No.: 6675-BD
RFP No: EDGE-G1C
Issued on: 17 April 2025

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply, Installation and Commissioning for Expansion of Existing Private Cloud Platform (DC & DR) in National Data Center at BCC. For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment Disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing, except for those payments, which the contract provides to be made through letter of credit.

2. The Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) now invites sealed Proposals from eligible Proposers for Expansion of Existing Private Cloud Platform (DC & DR) in National Data Center at BCC.

3. The procurement process will be conducted through international competitive procurement using Request for Proposals (RFP) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016, Revised February 2025 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible Proposers as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4. Bids will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation process set out in the bidding documents. The following weightings shall apply for Rated Criteria (including technical and non-price factors): 40% and for Bid cost: 60%.

5. Interested eligible Proposers may obtain further information from Project Director, Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project at the email address below and inspect the request for proposals document during office hours 09.00 to 16.00 hours at the address given below. For the convenience of the Proposers an unofficial electronic copy of the RFP document can also be viewed at the website www.bcc.gov.bd (for inspection purposes only) but not for use in the preparation and submission of proposals.

6. The request for proposals document in English may be purchased by interested eligible Proposers upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Bangladesh Taka (BDT 5,000.00) or Forty-Five United States Dollars (US\$ 45.00) for the cost of the RFP document. Proposers may collect the RFP document in English from the office address below during office working hours (from 9.00 AM to 4.00 PM BST). Proposers who would like the RFP document to be delivered to them through courier service should request this in their application and pay an additional fee of BDT 2,000 for local delivery within Bangladesh (i.e., total 7,000.00 Bangladesh Taka), or additional US\$ 100.00 (i.e., total 145.00 US Dollars) for overseas delivery outside Bangladesh. The method of payment will be Bank Draft or Pay Order in favor of "Project Director, Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project". In case of courier service delivery requested by the Proposer, the Purchaser will dispatch the RFP document to the Proposer through courier service within three business days of receipt of the written application and the above-specified payment. The Purchaser shall not be responsible for any delays or problems in delivering the RFP document by the courier service provider.

7. Proposals must be delivered to the address below on or before **03 June 2025** at 12:00 hours Bangladesh Time (BST = GMT + 6:00). Electronic procurement will not be permitted. Late Proposals will be rejected. The outer Proposal envelopes marked "ORIGINAL PROPOSAL", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be publicly opened in the presence of the Proposers' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below on **03 June 2025** at 12:30 hours Bangladesh Time (BST = GMT + 6:00). All envelopes marked "FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public Proposals opening.

8. All Proposals must be accompanied by a **Proposal Security** of United States Dollar (US\$) 100,000.00 (US\$ One Hundred Thousand only) or an equivalent amount in any freely convertible currency or Bangladesh Taka (BDT) 11,800,000.00 (BDT Eleven Million Eight Hundred Thousand Only).

9. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful Proposer's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the request for proposal document.

10. The address (es) referred to above is:

Attn: Project Director
Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project
Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), ICT Division,
Youth Tower (Level 5), 822/2, Rokeya Sarani, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh.
Telephone: +88 02 41001721, Fax: +88-02-55006791
E-mail: piu.edge@bcc.gov.bd

[Signature]
17/04/25
(Dr. Md. Taibur Rahman)
Project Director
Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project